

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Charlottesville Division**

BRENNAN M. GILMORE,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALEXANDER (“ALEX”) E. JONES;  
INFOWARS, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability  
Company; FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS, LLC, a  
Texas Limited Liability Company; LEE  
STRANAHAN; LEE ANN MCADOO A/K/A  
LEE ANN FLEISSNER; SCOTT CREIGHTON;  
JAMES (“JIM”) HOFT; DERRICK WILBURN;  
MICHELE HICKFORD; and WORDS-N-IDEAS,  
LLC,

Defendants.

No. 3:18-cv-00017-NKM-JCH

**PLAINTIFF’S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS’ SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN SUPPORT  
OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER OR TO CERTIFY INTERLOCUTORY APPEAL**

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Plaintiff Brennan Gilmore respectfully files this response to Defendants Wilburn, Hickford, Hoft, Creighton, and Words-N-Ideas, LLC's Supplemental Brief in Support of Motion to Reconsider or to Certify Interlocutory Appeal. *See* Dkt. No. 161.

As explained in detail in Plaintiff's May 16, 2019 response to Defendants' motions, Defendants have not met the heavy burden required to obtain reconsideration or interlocutory review, *see* Dkt. No. 145, and the single case they cite in their supplemental brief—*In re Trump*, 928 F.3d 360 (4th Cir. 2019)—is not to the contrary. In that case, the Fourth Circuit held that the district court abused its discretion by failing to certify a case for interlocutory appeal based principally on the “unique circumstances of th[at] case,” *id.* at 372. First, the issue raised in that case—whether certain states had standing to bring a suit alleging that the President had violated the Constitution's Emoluments Clause—“involve[d] a new legal question or [wa]s of special consequence.” *Id.* at 369 (quoting *Mohawk Indus., Inc. v. Carpenter*, 558 U.S. 100, 110-11 (2009) (emphasis omitted)). The Fourth Circuit listed the numerous reasons why in its view “one c[ould] hardly question that” the issue in that case met this high bar:

that no previous court had enforced the Emoluments Clauses; that no decision had defined what “emoluments” are; that no prior decision had determined that a party can sue directly under the Emoluments Clauses when the constitutional provisions provide no rights and specify no remedies; and that no case had held that a State has standing to sue the President for alleged injury to its proprietary or sovereign interests from a violation of the Emoluments Clause.

*Id.* at 369. Here by contrast, numerous Fourth Circuit and Supreme Court decisions have elucidated the standard for exercising personal jurisdiction, including in defamation cases like this one, and this Court merely applied those precedents to the facts of this case in its well-reasoned opinion denying Defendants' motions to dismiss.

Second, to show a reasonable difference of opinion, the Fourth Circuit cited a Southern District of New York decision in which the court came to a directly contrary conclusion as to

whether plaintiffs could sue under the Emoluments Clause. *Id.* at 370 (citing *Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in Washington v. Trump* (“CREW”), 276 F. Supp. 3d 174 (S.D.N.Y. 2017)); *see id.* at 371 (“[t]he CREW court’s disagreement with the theory of competitor standing embraced by the district court is fundamental and obvious”). As noted in Plaintiff’s May 16, 2019 response, *see* Dkt. No. 145, at 2, Defendants have not offered a single case with materially similar facts in which a court decided a personal jurisdiction question differently than this Court did.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, the Fourth Circuit noted that the plaintiffs in *In re Trump* “seek[] an injunction directly against a sitting President, the Nation’s chief executive officer” and that “to allow such a suit to go forward in the district court without a resolution of the controlling issues by a court of appeals could result in an unnecessary intrusion into the duties and affairs of a sitting President.” *In re Trump*, 928 F.3d at 368. Obviously, those unique factors do not exist in this case.

In sum, *In re Trump* does nothing to change the fact that Defendants have failed to meet their heavy burden to show the propriety of reconsideration or interlocutory appeal. Defendants’ motion for reconsideration or interlocutory appeal should be denied.

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<sup>1</sup> Once again, Defendants argue that there is a split of authorities as to whether Virginia’s long-arm statute is coterminous with the limits of the Due Process Clause. Dkt. No. 161 at 5-7. But the cases that Defendants cite stand only for the proposition that Virginia state courts sometimes analyze the state’s long-arm statute without referencing the Due Process Clause. The Fourth Circuit has repeatedly and consistently held that the long-arm statute is coterminous with the limits of the Due Process Clause, and there is no split of authorities on that question.

Dated: September 4, 2019

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Respectfully submitted,

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on September 4, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all parties via the Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system, and separately sent via first class mail to Mr. Lee Stranahan, 1440 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Dated: September 4, 2019

/s/ Andrew Mendrala  
Andrew Mendrala